

**U.S. Embassy
La Paz, Bolivia
Security Message for U.S. Citizens**

General Strike in La Paz

September 11, 2013

The U.S. Embassy in La Paz has received information that the Federación de Juntas Vecinales de La Paz (FEJUVE) will hold a general strike in La Paz for on Wednesday, September 11, 2013. This strike is likely to result in major disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular traffic throughout La Paz for much of the day. With this in mind, the U.S. Embassy in La Paz will be closed to the public for non-emergency services on September 11. The U.S. Consular Agencies in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba will be open as usual. The U.S. Embassy in La Paz will resume normal operations on Thursday, September 12, 2013.

Persons seeking emergency services may contact the Embassy American Citizen Services Unit at (2) 216-8246 or via email at ConsularLaPazACS@state.gov. We regret any inconvenience this closure may cause.

U.S citizens are reminded of the following emergency preparedness advice and directives:

- Maintain an adequate supply of food, water, medicines, and any other necessary items for your family on hand in your home.
- Fill your vehicle with gas and avoid letting it get below half tank.
- Avoid areas where roadblocks and demonstrations are occurring and do not attempt to run blockades.
- Monitor the local media for the latest information.
- If you find yourself in the vicinity of a demonstration, leave the area immediately and follow instructions of local authorities.

Demonstrations and road blockades are not unusual in Bolivia. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence between security forces, demonstrators, and bystanders. U.S. citizens should therefore remain alert and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Please note that the police have limited capabilities outside major cities, and communication is poor.

U.S. citizens can stay in touch and receive Embassy updates by checking the Embassy website, at <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov/>. Up-to-date information on security may also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, by calling the regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). U.S. citizens without Internet access may enroll directly at the nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the embassy/consulates to contact them in case of emergency. Stay informed by bookmarking our [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), which contains the current Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts as well as the Worldwide Caution. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) and download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

You can contact the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia, via e-mail at ConsularLaPazACS@state.gov or by telephone at 591-2-216-8246 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or 591-715-33713 after hours and on weekends. The U.S. Embassy's Consular Section is located at 2780 Arce Avenue in La Paz, Bolivia, and is open to the public by appointment. You can schedule a non-emergency appointment by visiting this [website](#).

The Embassy operates two Consular Agencies in the cities of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Bolivia that also provide assistance to U.S. citizens. The Santa Cruz Consular Agency is located on Roque Aguilera Avenue #146 (3rd ring), and can be reached by telephone at 591-3-351-3477 during regular business hours Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Cochabamba Consular Agency is located on Edificio Saal, Avenida Pando 1122, 1st Floor and can be reached by telephone at 591-4-411-6313, during regular business hours (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.). If you wish to visit the Consular Agencies for a non-emergency matter, please schedule an appointment through this [website](#).